THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (c) Oil Selection Board, Delhi & Chandigarh had conducted interviews for the following locations on 29-3-96 to 31-3-1996 :—

S.No.	Location	Product	Date of Interview
1.	Delhi	LPG	29-3-1996
2.	Delhi	LPG	30-3-1996
3.	Vikaspuri/ Janakpuri	SKO/ LDO	29-3-1996

Oil Selection Board, UT Delhi and Chandigarh was constituted on 1-1-1993. The OSB (Delhi & Chandigarh) was again reconstituted on March 7, 1995, for two years. Tenure of the above Oil Selection Board was terminated on 5-3-1997.

Crude Oil Production

3044. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that crude oil production reduced from 33.86 million tonne in 1997-98 to 32.72 million tonne in 1998-99;

(b) whether the consumption of petroleum products has been increasing at about 6 per cent per annum; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to step up production to meet the growing demands for this products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The growth in consumption of petroleum products including imports by private parties has been as follows :—

1996-97	6.0%
1997-98	6.5%
1998-99	7.4% (provisional)

(c) Constant endeavours are made to increase the production of crude oil and petroleum products through the following measures :—

(i) Optimizing production from existing field through better reservoir management, 3-D seismic surveys, infill drilling, pressure maintenance, installation/optimisation of artificial lift system, improvement in recovery factor and use of advanced and cost effective technologies.

(ii) Faster development of new discoveries.

(iii) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as :

— Exploration at greater depths in existing fields.

— Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas.

— Increased private participation in exploration activities through various rounds of bidding for exploration blocks and New Exploration Licensing Policy.

(iv) Refining capacity in the country has been increased from about 69 million tonnes per annum on 31-3-1999 to about 112 million metric tonnes on 31-3-2000. It is expected to go up to 129 million tonnes by the end of the IX Plan.

Production Work in Panipat Refinery

†3045. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH :
DR. D. MASTHAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS to be pleased to state :

(a) whether production work has started in the refinery situated in Panipat in Haryana;

(b) if so, the date from which commercial production has been started;

(c) whether the production work in the above refinery is being carried out by fully utilising the installed production capacity; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.